

The Oversight Board

Meeting TWENTY-EIGHT

25th February 2026

Approved minute



the
oversight board

The Oversight Board

Meeting TWENTY-EIGHT

Approved Minute

Attendees:

David Anderson	Oversight Board - Chair
Jemma Kerr	Oversight Board Member - Deputy Chair
Andrea Nelson	Oversight Board Member
Emma Brennan	Oversight Board Member
Jennifer Rodgers	Oversight Board Member
Kezia Dugdale	Oversight Board Member
Lisa Mason	Oversight Board Member
Lorraine Moore	Oversight Board Member
Lucy Smith	Oversight Board Member
Oisin King	Oversight Board Member
Ryan McShane	Oversight Board Member
Stephen Ramsay	Oversight Board Member

Apologies:

Barry Black	Oversight Board Member
Donna McLeod	Oversight Board Member
Jasmin Kasaya Pilling	Oversight Board Member
Taliah Drayak	Oversight Board Member

In attendance from The Promise Scotland:

Careen Rennie	Design and Improvement Lead
Claire Burns	Head of Improvement
Fraser McKinlay	Chief Executive

Gillian Graham	Executive Assistant & Governance Coordinator
Ken Watt	Partnership Officer
Morag Burnett	Head of Governance & Strategy

Minute of Meeting:

1.	<p>Welcome and introductions; declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all members present. The primary purpose of Meeting TWENTY-EIGHT was to continue discussing the deep-dive areas for Report FOUR.</p> <p>Introductions were made for Claire Burns, Careen Rennie, and Ken Watt from The Promise Scotland, who will be supporting Report FOUR through data work and project management.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Jasmin Kasaya Pilling (ongoing maternity leave), Donna MacLeod who is taking an organised break, Taliah Drayak, and Barry Black who is on sick leave.</p> <p>Members asked whether the Board currently has sufficient capacity to progress the Report. The Chair confirmed that he is confident there are the right skills and members to produce Report FOUR. Recruitment will be added to the Forward Plan, following a review of purpose and terms of reference in the autumn.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes and Actions from Meeting TWENTY-SEVEN</p> <p>The minutes of Meeting TWENTY-SEVEN were reviewed and approved page by page. All actions from that meeting were confirmed as either complete or in progress.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the members had seen and agreed to the briefing papers on Education and Homelessness that were going to be presented to MSPs tomorrow at the parliament business meeting.</p>
3	<p>Updates</p> <p>Updates from Groups</p> <p>The Looked After at Home group and the Voice group provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with external organisations are ongoing. • Regular internal meetings between group members continue to take place.



Editorial Group Update

- The Editorial Group has met and:
 - Updated the work plan
 - Discussed the tone of the report
- There was discussion regarding the inclusion of The Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill:
 - Consideration of how prominently it should feature in Report FOUR
 - Further discussions are ongoing as the Bill progresses through Parliament
- The group are still considering the overarching theme/thread for the report.

Parliamentary Engagement Planning

- Members discussed the upcoming new Parliament in May, noting:
 - A high percentage of MSPs are standing down
- It was agreed that:
 - Engagement with new MSPs will take place after summer, once the new Parliament is established.
 - The launch of Report FOUR is the main opportunity to do this.
 - The Promise Scotland is developing a full post-election Parliamentary engagement plan for all aspects of the promise.

Update on Homelessness and letter from the Minister

- The Chair updated the members on progress relating to housing issues. The Chair has been in discussion with both Ewan Aitken – CEO of Cyrennians and former member of The Oversight Board, and Kate Polson from The Rock Trust, on how to progress housing issues for care-experienced young adults.
- A discussion took place on the Minister's letter (attached), particularly the section on the independent review of children's welfare and care legislation being led by Professor Norrie and CELCIS. Members expressed concern. It was noted that The Promise Scotland and the Independent Strategic Advisor – for the promise have been working with the Scottish Government for three years on simplification and legislative decluttering, including presenting clear options, which were not accepted as sufficient.

It was suggested that Professor Kenneth Norrie be invited to a future meeting to discuss. It was also agreed to write to CELCIS to seek clarity on the scope of the review.

The Oversight Board has developed a [housing briefing](#) to be presented to MSPs at The Oversight Board Parliament meeting scheduled for tomorrow (26th February).

Chair and Deputy Chair updates

- The Chair will be speaking at *"The New Scottish Children's Care Bill: understanding what's proposed and what's needed."* The request for a speaker was passed on from



	<p>The Promise Scotland, with the view that the Chair has significant experience and knowledge in this area. There are two free places available for anyone who wishes to attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Deputy Chair indicated that a future session, following publication of the report, should focus on clarifying the lines of responsibility in relation to <i>the promise</i>, with particular attention to where decision-making authority sits across the system. This will be added to the Forward Plan.• The Chair is due to meet with the Permanent Secretary and the Director General for Education and Justice following the discussion at the Public Audit Committee on 10 December 2025. The intention of this meeting is to establish a clear and consistent line of communication with the Scottish Government. It was noted that a new member of the Scottish Government team, has recently been appointed to strengthen communication, build partnerships, and support more effective joint working. DA will provide an update to members once agreement has been reached on communication arrangements.• In addition, a meeting is currently being scheduled with the new Chief Social Work Advisor, who has taken over the role from Iona Colvin. Members agreed that this should be followed by a further discussion to revisit discussions previously held with the Oversight Board in 2025 and will focus on establishing clear milestones for the National Social Work Agency, as well as how these align with the 2030 commitments set out under <i>the promise</i>. <p>Children (Care, Care Experience and Service Planning) (Scotland) Bill</p> <p>The Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland provided members with an update on the Children (Care, Care Experience and Service Planning) (Scotland) Bill. It was noted that there is significant concern across the system following the Bill's progression through Stage 2 last week, particularly in relation to the current Financial Memorandum.</p> <p>It was further highlighted that these issues are likely to form a central part of the Stage 3 debate, scheduled for 18 March. This is expected to be a lengthy session, with a high volume of amendments anticipated.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Report FOUR deep dive sessions</p> <p>The members agreed to progress deep dives and split into working groups to define roles and next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editorial• Voice of Care Experience• Looked After at Home <p>Groups used the time together to review progress to date, identify information gaps and plan next steps.</p>

5.	<p>Next Steps Notes from the working groups will be written up for future discussion.</p>
6.	<p>Planning for Parliamentary business meeting The Oversight Board discussed the parliament business meeting hosted by Roz McCall MSP in the Parliament tomorrow.</p> <p>The members will introduce themselves and present the Housing and Education briefing to MSPs who attend. The briefings will be available on The Oversight Board website along with context written by the Chair.</p>
7.	<p>Verbal update - Agreement of Understanding with The Promise Scotland An update was given to members on the proposed joint agreement between The Promise Scotland and the Oversight Board. Both Chairs have reviewed the draft agreement, and this will come to both Boards for if approved, once finalised by the Chairs.</p> <p>Members noted that any agreement should not be overly rigid or legalistic.</p>
6.	<p>FORWARD PLAN Members shared various ideas for future meetings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A session on the Bill • Inviting Kenneth Norrie. Purpose – to understand the scope and purpose of his review. • Inviting the Care Inspectorate. Purpose – to discuss the recent joint inspections. • Inviting Ben Farrugia and Joanna McDonald. Purpose - to clarify milestones against 2030 timeline. • Inviting Who Cares? Scotland. Purpose – to strengthen the relationship. <p>The Chair and Deputy will look at these suggestions in the light of what needs to be done to progress Report FOUR.</p> <p>An optional session on clarifying the lines of responsibility in relation to <i>the promise</i>, with particular attention to where decision-making authority sits across the system will be organised by The Promise Scotland</p>